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CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

CHANGE IN PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE
EASTERN REGIONS OF THE USSR

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This report represents the immediate views of the
originating intelligence components of the Office
of Research and Reports. Comments are solicited.

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The disparity between state capital investment in the eastern regions of the USSR for 1958 and that originally scheduled for the Sixth Five-Year Plan suggests that a major change has occurred in the planned rate of development in these areas, possibly equivalent to a stretch-out of about two years in investment planning. In addition, Bratsk hydroelectric station and Krasnoyarsk hydroelectric station (GES), key projects in the industrial development of Siberia, which were scheduled under the Sixth Five-Year Plan to start operation at partial capacity in 1960 and 1961 respectively, 1/ will not go into initial operation until 1962 and 1963. 2/

Original plans for the period 1956-1960 called for the allocation of over 40 percent of the total USSR state capital investment to the eastern area. 3/ If these plans were still in effect, the capital investments in 1958 would be expected to approach 40 percent of the total, but only about 27 percent is planned. 4/

Bratsk, under construction on the Angara River with a planned installed capacity of 3,600,000 kilowatts, and Krasnoyarsk, with a planned capacity of 4,000,000 kilowatts, will be the largest hydroelectric stations in the world. With a combined annual production of about 40 billion kilowatt-hours, they will supply power to the major industrial areas of Irkutsk, Krasnoyarsk, and the Kuznetz Basin (Kuzbas), where large power-intensive industries in such fields as aluminum, magnesium, ferroalloys, chemicals, and probably fissionable materials are to be built.

It is not likely that the completion date of the Bratsk station has been postponed because of construction problems with the project itself. Last year, its builders three times won first place in the quarterly all-union socialist competition, were awarded the Challenge Red Banner, and fulfilled their ten-month plan 20 days ahead of schedule. 5/ The delay is more probably the result of a general reduction in the tempo of industrialization in the eastern regions.

The failures of this program are probably due to a lag in the construction of industrial plants rather than electric power facilities. A case in point appeared in the Soviet press in October, 1957: 6/

"..... the building of electrometallurgical industries is lagging behind the tempo of electric power construction (in the Angara region). The construction of the Irkutsk Aluminum Plant is lagging so much that the Irkutsk hydroelectric station during its first year or more of operation will not be able to find consumers for all of its cheap electric power. This lesson must be considered in constructing Bratsk hydroelectric station."

Examples of lagging construction are found in most branches of industry including ferrous metallurgy, non-ferrous metallurgy, and coal 7/ and it appears that the Bratsk construction has been rescheduled to fit in with the expected completion dates of the new industrial plants it will serve.

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